

His Hero by [missnairobithegreat](#)

Category: Stranger Things (TV 2016)

Genre: Gay Will Byers, Jealousy, M/M, One-Sided Attraction, Unrequited Crush

Language: English

Characters: Mike Wheeler, Will Byers

Relationships: Will Byers/Mike Wheeler

Status: Completed

Published: 2021-06-21

Updated: 2021-06-21

Packaged: 2022-03-31 13:54:14

Rating: General Audiences

Warnings: No Archive Warnings Apply

Chapters: 1

Words: 735

Publisher: archiveofourown.org

Summary:

Will's thoughts about Mike whilst destroying Castle Byers - set during season 3.

His Hero

Mike Wheeler. His hero.

The boy who had walked up to him and introduced himself on the first day of kindergarten when he was so, so alone, all by himself on the swings. He still remembered how he had felt the very first time he saw Mike – the little boy with the freckles and the dark hair, those kind, inviting, eyes, the smile that was shy yet somehow brave all the same.

He remembered he had felt his stomach twist a bit when Mike had reached out to shake his hand. The feeling didn't make sense to him at the time... but he wanted to be his friend. He was certain about that. And so he took the boy's hand and let him know that he was Will, Will Byers. That was their beginning.

As time passed by, as they met Lucas and Dustin, it became easier to identify what he had felt on that first day, on the day when Mike Wheeler had shook his hand and gave meaning to the word "friend." Mike Wheeler was everything a person could possibly want in a friend – loyal, nice, protective, empathetic, understanding... but he couldn't help but look at Mike and wish that he were a little more than a friend. Wish that he could hold hands with Mike all the time. Wish that Mike Wheeler, with his nice hair and nice eyes, would just plant a kiss on him. Wish that he could be with Mike forever and ever, just the two of them...

He was supposed to like girls. He knew that. That was the way things were – boys took girls out on dates, boys kissed girls, boys liked girls. Boys played sports, boys hunted... but he wasn't like the other boys.

Dad had slipped and called him a "fag" because he couldn't throw the ball, because he didn't really want to throw the ball, because he was quiet, weird, different. Everyone – everyone – always let him know that he was different. The boys at school shoved him around, called him a "fairy." He knew that he wasn't like the other guys, that he wasn't supposed to like Mike even though he did, he did so much...

He had felt the world closing in on him after El came back. It wasn't

that he disliked her – she had saved him, after all – it was just that all she ever did was come around and take Mike away. Always kissing him, always holding his hand, always doing everything that he had wanted to do. Taking all of his time and attention away.

He felt, at times, like he hardly even knew Mike anymore. Everything had changed so quickly – after the Upside Down, after El closed the gate. The whole Party had changed, but Mike... he almost felt childish for feeling this way, but he had never expected Mike to change up on him.

His hero, the one who was there when no one else was, cared more about Eleven than him. Cared so much about her that he let him know that it wasn't his fault that Will didn't like girls...

...That he didn't like girls, that he wasn't normal, that he wasn't normal and was dumb enough to let himself crush on his best friend. That he was dumb enough to believe that Mike could be there forever, that Mike would care forever, that Mike would stay the same forever, that Mike would always get it, that Mike wouldn't disappear for some girl...

He destroyed Castle Byers. He hit, hit, hit until it had broken down, until it was in pieces, until it was no longer truly – truly – there.

He smashed and he thought of Mike, of what had been, of what could be... and of what was, of what the unfortunate reality happened to be.

His dreams were shattered alongside Castle Byers. The hopes, the fantasies of being with Mike, the longing... it was not real. It had never been real.

As he sat down and cried, cried whilst sitting around the shattered pieces, it hit him that it was just a fantasy, all of it. That really, heroes only existed in the stories. That he would quite possibly never get his hero back. That his hero was gone, that his hero wanted El, and here he was, all alone, with nobody who understood...

Mike Wheeler. The boy who shattered his heart into two.

Author's Note:

I wanted to play around w the idea of Will having an unrequited crush on Mike (I ship Byeler but think that if the Duffers do explore Byeler it'll unfortunately be one-sided? I definitely think that Will is gay, and that the only people who try to argue otherwise with all of the evidence that we have are homophobic.) If you have specific evidence that supports Mike returning Will's feelings (I perceive Will to have a one-sided crush or like to headcanon that?,) let me know, or if you j want to discuss Byeler I'd really love to!

The thought of Will having a one-sided thing for Mike makes me really really sad but I think it also adds reasoning to why he was so upset in season 3 about Mike and Lucas spending so much time w Eleven and Max? I don't even think he necessarily dislikes El, I j really think he's jealous of her (I'd actually love to write another Byeler fic in which we see Will and El bonding as siblings after like the ending of s3?)